# El Toro Trail

PRC Meeting Update March, 19 2013





### **EL TORO TRAIL PLANNING UPDATE**

- Project Approval History
- Review Project Objectives and Goals
- Share Conceptual Trail Vision
- Provide Details on Steps Completed to Date
- Neighborhood Concerns/Possible Solutions
- List Items Requiring Further Work
- Anticipated Next Steps



## **Project Approval History**

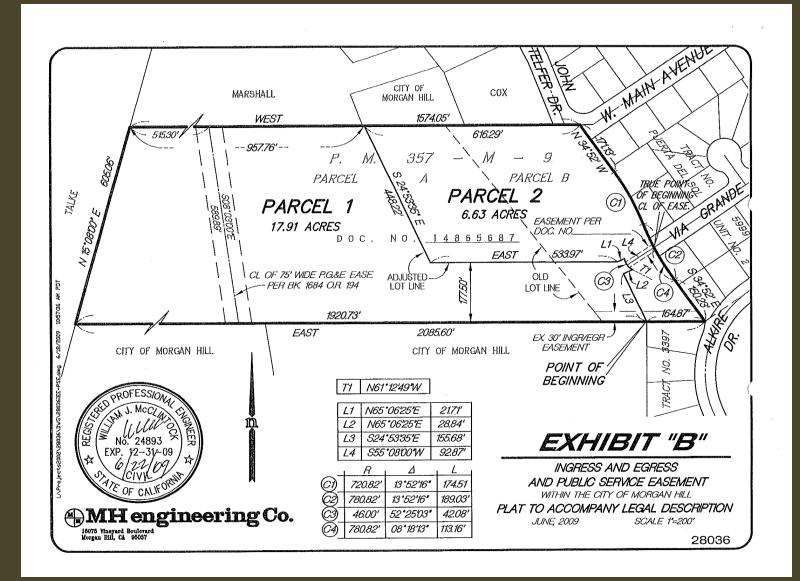
- 2002: City Council approves request to support a Natural Resources
   Study to supplement the 2002 Bikeways Master Plan
- 2007: City Council approves the Trails and Natural Resources Study
- 2008-2012: City Council approves CIP Budgets, which
  include the El Toro Trail project. Current project budget is
  \$595K, with \$350k allocated towards r/w acquisition.
- 2010: City Council approves a 20% funding agreement with the Santa Clara County Open Space Authority for the purchase of the Acton parcel which provides an easement for the trail
- **2012:** City Council authorizes a grant application for TDA Article 3 Funding for El Toro Trail (\$44,000 Received)



## **Trails and Natural Resources Study Map**



### **Acton Exhibit**



## Review Project Objectives and Goals

- Implement the City's Trails & Natural Resources Plan by providing public access through a Hiker friendly trail to the summit of El Toro mountain
- Involve community in decision making process
- Restore existing trail to natural environment



## **Conceptual El Toro Trail Vision**

Length of existing trail: .29 miles

Length of Possible Phase I trail: 1.2 miles

Length of Proposed OSA trail: .71 miles

Length of on-street loop .94 miles

Length of Future Phase II trail: .57 miles

Length of Possible trail connection: .43 miles



## **Steps Completed to Date**

- Hired architect Bellinger Foster Steinmetz for trail planning services
- Prepared conceptual trail alignments based upon the approved
   Trails & Natural Resources Study
- Continued dialogue with the Open Space Authority to open a joint trail & utilized their trail building experience
- Performed two existing trail user surveys
- Met with the Via Grande neighborhood to obtain feedback
- Provided the neighborhood with an update on January 15<sup>th</sup>



 Safety - Concern about non-neighborhood trail users, possible illegal activity & loitering at Trailhead

#### Possible Solutions –

- 1) Locate trailhead & parking at library and set in trail entrance from the street
- 2) Increase patrol & establish volunteer trail patrols
- 3) Presence of other users helps minimize undesirable behavior
- 4) Although trails are not crime-free, compared to the communities in which they exist, trails have an excellent public safety record



## **Trail Head Vision**

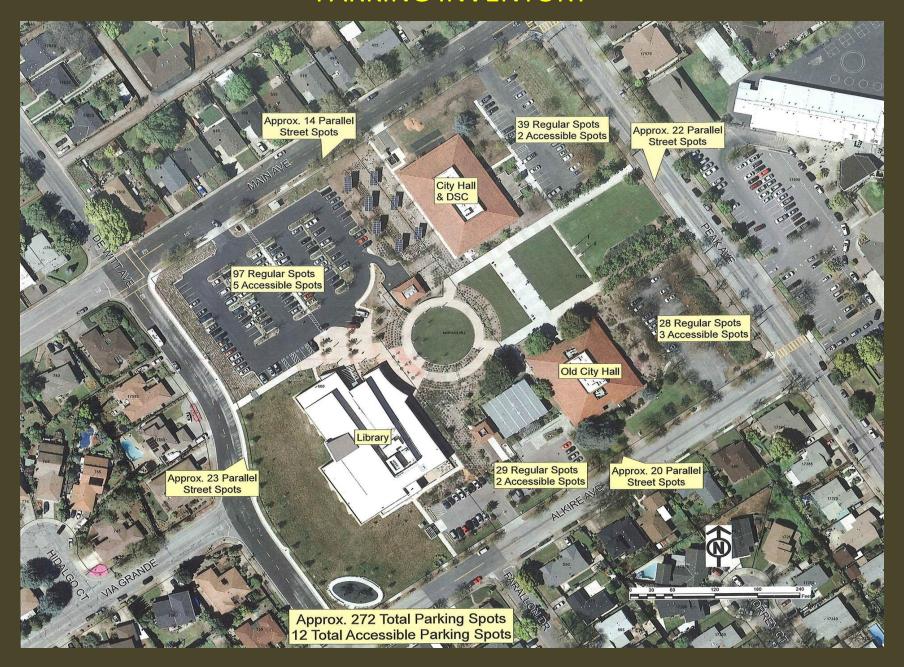


#### Parking

**Concern** - Visual and inconvenience issues related to trail user parking in neighborhood, loss of residential parking, and not enough parking.

**Possible Solutions** – 1) Recommend restricted parking on streets where trail entrances are located 2) Recommend trailhead & parking at Library and on street adjacent to public facilities.

## **PARKING INVENTORY**



#### Restrooms

**Concern** – No restrooms

**Possible Solutions** – 1) Use library restrooms when available, and 2) Install a restroom facility

#### Privacy

**Concern** - Quiet neighborhood now dealing with "outsider" pedestrian traffic and increased noise

**Possible Solutions** – 1) Propose trailhead location at library and restrict parking on residential streets. This reduces traffic and noise in effected neighborhood

#### Fire/Wildlife Impacts

**Concern** - Potential for trail users to start wildfires and deter wildlife from the area **Possible Solutions** – 1) Solicit input from agencies involved in trail planning and fire prevention

#### Litter

Concern - Trail users leaving trash at trailhead & neighborhood

**Possible Solutions** – 1) Install trash receptacles at trail entrance & trailhead parking locations, and 2) scheduled trash pick-up by maintenance staff, volunteers/trail clubs

## **Items Requiring Further Work**

- Work to minimize Neighborhood impacts
- Obtain public access rights to optimize trail experience
- Work with OSA to create a joint trail system, including trail maintenance and daily patrol
- Expand community involvement
  - Planning (Trail alignment)
  - Implementation (Constructing the trail)
  - Volunteer opportunities (litter pick-up, trail maintenance, patrol)



### **Anticipated Next Steps**

- PRC to Provide Feedback & Guidance
- Future community meeting(s)
- PRC recommendation to City Council
- City Council Direction



# Thank you for attending tonight's meeting

